

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 25, line 1, as follows:

B' DNA fragments containing nuclear microsatellite sequences were PCR-amplified from loblolly pine genomic DNA using 3 pairs of DNA primers. The DNA sequences for two primer pairs, PtTX3011 and PtTX3034, were obtained from the Texas A&M University web page of Dr. Claire Williams (<http://forestry.tamu.edu/genetics/primer.txt>). The other primer pair was designed from the loblolly pine EST sequence 6c12f (GenBank accession AA556811; see Table 2). This EST was found by conducting a BLAST search of EST sequences in GenBank using 10 repeats of the trinucleotide CAG. DNA sequence from the M13-29 forward sequencing primer was incorporated at the 5' end of each forward primer sequence (5'-CACGACGTTGTAAAACGAC-3' [SEQ ID No. 21], using the tailed primer strategy described by Oetting et al. (Genomics 30:450-458 (1995); ~~see also~~ <http://biosupport.licor.com/support/RnP/protocols/TailPrim.shtml>). An M13 primer with a 5' infrared fluorophore label, IRD41, was used as the only source of labeled primer for detection for all nuclear microsatellites. The PCR-reactions were carried out in 10 µl using 40 ng of loblolly pine genomic DNA as template. The PCR reactions contained PCR buffer and 1 unit of Taq polymerase (Boehringer Mannheim, 10 mM Tris-HCl, 1.5 mM MgCl₂, 50 mM KCl, pH 8.3), 2 pmol anti-sense primer, 0.1 pmol IR-labeled sense primer, 0.1 mM dNTP (using dGTP). The reactions were run in 96-well polycarbonate microtitre plates (25 µL conical-bottom wells). The thermocycler temperature program was [94° C, 10 s; 65° C, 30 s; 72° C, 1 m] repeated 13 times, dropping the annealing temperature by 0.7 degree each cycle, followed by 23 cycles using the [94° C, 10 s; 56° C, 30 s; 72° C]. The stop solution contained 95% formamide, 0.1 mM EDTA, 0.1% bromophenol blue, and 5 µL of stop solution was added to each reaction.

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